



State of Washington

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207

Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 14-028: MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR WDFW FORESTS

#### Description of Proposal:

This is a non-project proposal involving the adoption of a forest management strategy. The management strategy describes the forests owned by WDFW, its vision for them and how they will be managed to achieve that vision. The purpose of the document is to provide a clear, consistent strategy to ensure that limited resources are effectively used to manage the agency's roughly 200,000 acres of forest as fish and wildlife habitat. Approximately half of WDFW's forests are in relatively good condition or are on natural trajectories to become so and need no active management. The remaining forests have been impacted by harvest activities prior to acquisition, have become degraded by widespread fire exclusion or are at risk to severe insect outbreaks and wildfires. Such forests may require active management to restore or maintain desired conditions.

The first section describes the various forest types managed by WDFW including their historic conditions, current conditions (which are often very different from historic conditions) and desired ranges of future conditions to meet ecological, social and economic objectives. The second section defines agency management strategies and how work will be prioritized, implemented and tracked. The third section is intended to be a resource for project proponents and includes both standards and procedures to ensure that projects are properly planned, executed and documented.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Contact: Richard Tveten

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Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 902-2367

[Richard.Tveten@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Richard.Tveten@dfw.wa.gov)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife manages forests on wildlife areas throughout the state. The following link provides descriptions of all wildlife areas and maps showing where they are located.

[http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/)

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We are providing an extended comment period to give interested parties sufficient time to provide comments on this wide-ranging management

strategy: we will **not act on this proposal for 30 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on May 23, 2014**.

**Method of Comment:**

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** April 22, 2014

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 14-028.dns